

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /089 W

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R 280938Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9704

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

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TAGS: PFOR, MY, BX, UK

SUBJ: BRUNEI ISSUE AT COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

REF: K.L. 5717, 12/3/74

1. MALAY-LANGUAGE "UTUSAN MALAYSIA" APRIL 27 REPORTS THAT
BRUNEI PEOPLES' PARTY (PARTI RAKYAT BRUNEI OR BPP) WPJL
PRESENT MEMORANDUM TO COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTER'S
CONFERENCE IN JAMAICA APRIL 29 - MAY 6 CALLING FOR
RESTORATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL GOVT IN BRUNEI. BPP
MEMORANDUM, SIGNED BY A.M. AZAHARI, REPORTEDLY ACCUSES
HMG OF "POLITICAL BLACKMAIL" IN MAINTAINING MILITARY TIES
WITH BRUNEI ALTHOUGH IT HAS SUPPOSEDLY WITHDRAWN "EAST
OF SUEZ." BPP ALSO ACCUSES BRITISH OF DETAINING MORE
THAN 2,000 BPP MEMBERS AFTER 1962 BRUNEI REBELLION AND
PREVENTING BRUNEI GOVT FROM RELEASING POLITICAL
PRISONERS. ASSERTING BRUNEI NOW ON "VERGE" OF
INDEPENDENCE, AZAHARI CLAIMS BPP DOES NOT WISH
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OVERTHROW SULTAN, ONLY TO RESTORE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVT.

2. "UTUSAN MALAYSIA" ALSO REPORTED FROM LONDON APRIL 24 THAT PM RAZAK RAISED BRUNEI ISSUE IN TALKS WITH PM WILSON APRIL 14 IN CONTEXT OF HMG SECURITY INTERESTS IN ASIA, INCLUDING GURKHA PRESENCE IN BRUNEI. RAZAK OSTENSIBLY TOOK LINE THAT, WHILE BRUNEI AFFAIRS ONLY FOR HMG AND BRUNEI GOVT TO DECIDE, NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE TO DISTURB PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS IN INDOCHINA, OR TO INHIBIT ACHIEVEMENT OF SEASIAN ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY. "UTUSAN" CORRESPONDENT OPINED THAT HMG'S POLICY TOWARD BRUNEI IS "CONFUSED" OVER SERI BEGAWAN'S CLAIM TO LIMBANG TERRITORY IN SARAWAK AND THAT IT BELIEVED HMG WILL ADVISE SERI BEGAWAN NOT TO PRESS CLAIM OR OTHERWISE DISTURB PEACE. ALSO, IT BELIEVED HMG WILL ADVISE BRUNEI TO HEED ASPIRATIONS OF PEOPLE AND TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS (READ MALAYSIA).

3. BEGIN LOU : COMMENT: BRUNEI HAS BEEN FAVORITE ISSUE OF HIGHLY NATIONALISTIC "UTUSAN MALAYSIA." BOTH ARTICLES REPORTED ABOVE CONTAINED LENGTHY REHASH OF 1962 BPP REVOLT AND SERI BEGAWAN'S (AS DISTRICT FROM BRUNEI GOVT'S) CLAIM TO LIMBANG. REGARDING RAZAK'S MEETING WITH PM WILSON, BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION HERE HAS CONFIRMED SUBJECT WAS RAISED BUT WE DO NOT YET HAVE SUBSTANCE OF THIS ASPECT OF TALKS. BRUNEI, FOR ITS PART, HAS MOVED RECENTLY TO IMPROVE POLITICAL CLIMATE BY RELEASING 10 PERSONS ACCUSED OF CIRCULATING BPP PROPAGANDA IN APRIL THIS YEAR, AND FREEING JAIS BIN HAJI KARIM, A "MILITARY COMMANDER" OF BPP'S NORTH KALIMANTAN NATIONAL ARMY WHO HAS BEEN DETAINED SINCE 1963. TEN OTHER EX-REBELS HAVE BEEN FREED BY BRUNEI GOVT IN LAST FIVE MONTHS. ON DEBIT SIDE, BRUNEI EARLIER THIS MONTH DEPORTED EIGHT SARAWAK CHINESE AND ONE SINGAPORE MALAY FOR ALLEGED "CLANDESTINE SUBVERSIVE" ACTIVITIES. OVERALL, HOWEVER, MALAYSIAN-BRUNEI FRICTIONS HAVE BEEN QUIESCENT IN RECENT MONTHS BUT AZAHARI'S APPROACH TO COMMONWEALTH CONF MAY PRESAGE REVIVAL OF OPEN POLITICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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